

How It Works

- 1. Complete five or more activities in this Like to Hike log. Trail maps are available at the Nature Center, campground host sites and park headquarters. Those with special needs may modify activities.
- 2. Pins, sold by the Friends of Peninsula State Park, are available for \$6. Those who complete five or more activities can purchase a pin for just \$3!
- 3. Record activities in this log. Bring it to park headquarters or the Nature Center. Park staff will stamp the log so you can purchase the pin at a discount.
- 4. The Like to Hike program encourages silent sports (hiking, snowshoeing, biking, skiing, wildlife viewing, paddling) which promote health and resource appreciation.

Visit dnr.wi.gov, search “Peninsula”
Visit peninsulafriends.org

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Like To Hike 2022

PENINSULA STATE PARK HIKING LOG



PENINSULA STATE PARK
9462 SHORE ROAD
FISH CREEK, WI 54212
920-868-3258



BLUE-SPOTTED SALAMANDER (*Ambystoma laterale*)

The blue-spotted salamander, is an amphibian from the family Ambystomatidae. Also known as mole salamanders, they spend much of their time underground, and they usually only come out at night and during rainy or damp weather.

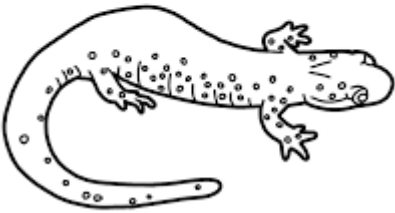
Appearance: Salamanders, like the blue-spotted salamander, are often mistaken for lizards. However, blue-spotted salamanders do not have scaly skin or claws on their toes. The blue-spotted salamander is dark brown to black in color with a lighter belly. It has blue spots irregularly distributed on the sides and tail of its body. Fully grown, it is three to five inches in length, with a long tail that is about 40% of its body size. Male blue-spotted salamanders are smaller than females. Their front feet have four toes, while the hind feet have five toes.

Lifecycle: In Spring, blue-spotted salamanders travel to vernal pools, created by melting snow and rains, to lay their eggs. Vernal pools are chosen because predators are less likely to establish themselves in these temporary pools. In two to four weeks larvae hatch from the eggs with external gills and no legs. The larvae live in the vernal pools eating small aquatic invertebrates like water fleas, insects and mosquito larvae. As the larvae matures, they develop legs and lose their external gills. The time it takes for larvae to mature depends on the amount of food available. Once fully matured, they leave the vernal pools for land. Blue-spotted salamanders can live 20-30 years.

Predators: The diet of raccoons, skunks, turtles and snakes includes the blue-spotted salamander. To defend against predators, it secretes a foul-tasting sticky substance from glands near the base of its tail.

Habitat: Blue-spotted salamanders are found in coniferous and deciduous forests of northern and southern Wisconsin. It can also be found in eastern central United States, parts of Canada and northern New England. The blue-spotted salamander likes places with moist soils and often burrows under leaf litter, rocks, moss, or logs.

In recent years Peninsula has experienced several windstorms that have caused old growth trees, such as the white cedar, to fall to the forest floor. Peninsula staff clean up the fallen trees on roadways, trails and campsites for the safety of park visitors. Trees that are not hazardous to park visitors are left untouched as they create habitat and shelter for the many species that live in Peninsula’s forest, including the blue-spotted salamander. Decomposing logs make great habitat for insects, slugs, spiders, snails and centipedes, all of which the blue-spotted salamander eat. Blue-spotted salamanders also find shelter underneath decomposing logs and leaves littering the forest floor.

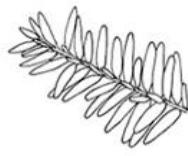


VISIT...

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1. WHITE CEDAR NATURE TRAIL

Date: _____ 0.5 mile loop.
Easy self-guided nature trail teaches about deer ecology.
Access at White Cedar Nature Center. Dogs are not allowed on the Nature Trail.



2. MINNEHAHA TRAIL

Date: _____ 0.7 one way.
Easy trail along the lakeshore links South Nicolet Bay Campground and Eagle Trail.
Access near campsite 844.

3. TRAIL TRAMPERS DELIGHT VIA NICOLET BAY TRAIL

Date: _____ 0.5 one way.
Easy to moderate trail that meanders through the forest to Eagle Bluff Lighthouse. Watch for wild turkeys and pileated woodpeckers. Access Nicolet Bay Trail at the amphitheater parking lot or Welcker’s campground.

4. SENTINEL TRAIL

Date: _____ 2 mile loop. Easy trail through a forest of maple, beech and red pine. Trail signs interpret forest ecology. Near Eagle Tower, access .6 miles of packed-gravel to facilitate mobility.

5. EAGLE TRAIL

Date: _____ 2 mile loop. Difficult terrain with views of 150-foot cliffs, springs and forested terraces. Several steep, rocky sections offset a level segment that parallels Eagle Harbor. Access by Eagle Panorama or Eagle Terrace.



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6. PEDAL POWER

Date: _____ Pedal all or part of the Sunset Bike Route (10 miles) or the Mountain Bike Trail (mileage varies, trail pass required for ages 16+). Bikers are required to follow all traffic laws. Ride single file on the right. Safety gear is recommended.



7. PADDLE ADVENTURE

Date: _____ Paddle Peninsula’s scenic shore. Wear a life jacket. View the 150-foot bluffs of the Niagara Escarpment and Eagle Cave as you paddle the shoreline. Peninsula protects 8 miles of undeveloped shoreline.

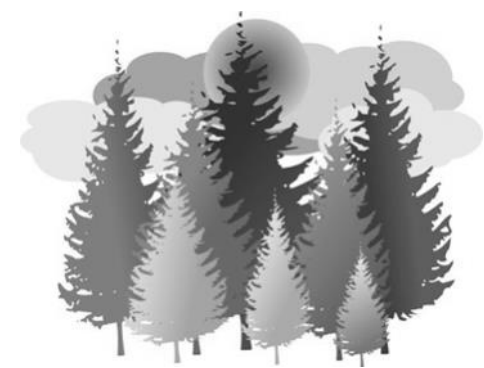
8. LEND A HAND!

Date: _____ 30 minutes. Spend some time taking care of YOUR park. Inquire at the Nature Center on you can help. Pick up litter, pull garlic mustard, or help at a nature program. Thank you!



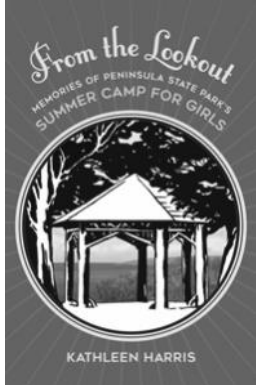
9. HIKE TO THE NATURE CENTER

Date: _____ Bike or walk to the Nature Center to attend a program or see and learn about the flora and fauna that call Peninsula and the surrounding area home. Want to know more about the blue-spotted salamander and other mole salamanders? Ask to borrow *The Salamander Room* and *Salamander Dance*.



10. SKYLINE TRAIL

Date: _____ 3-mile loop.
Moderate rolling terrain will lead you to Sven’s Bluff. Walk by remnants of old homesteads and Camp Meenagha, a summer girls camp located in the park from 1916-1948. Learn more about Camp Meenagha in the book written by retired Peninsula State Park naturalist Kathleen Harris. “*From the Lookout: Memories of Peninsula State Park’s Summer Camp for Girls*” published by Wisconsin Historical Society Press in 2020. A portion of proceeds will benefit Peninsula’s interpretation program.



11. FOREST HIKE SCAVENGER HUNT

Date: _____ Take a hike on a hiking trail of your choice. Can you find...

- ☐ Three different types of birds
- ☐ Three different types of trees
- ☐ Acorns
- ☐ Animal tracks
- ☐ Blue-spotted salamander
- ☐ Deer
- ☐ Decomposing log
- ☐ Flying insect
- ☐ Habitat suited for a blue-spotted salamander
- ☐ Leaf litter
- ☐ Moss
- ☐ Niagara Escarpment
- ☐ Pinecones
- ☐ Scat
- ☐ Slug
- ☐ Snake
- ☐ Squirrel
- ☐ Vernal pool
- ☐ Wildflower
- ☐ Woodpeckers snacking place